

Atlantis lands after 4-day flight

EDWARDS AIR FORCE BASE (R) — The space shuttle Atlantis, carrying five astronauts, landed safely here Monday, ending a four-day mission which launched the first U.S. planetary probe in more than a decade. Atlantis landed on a long runway in the middle of the Mojave desert at about 12:43 p.m. (1943 GMT), ending the 29th flight of the shuttle programme and the fourth since the 1986 Challenger disaster. Atlantis was 296 kilometres above the Indian Ocean when the shuttle's twin engines slowed the craft's speed of 28,000 kilometres per hour by 360 kilometres per hour. The braking dropped the spacecraft out of orbit and starting the shuttle's blazing, hour-long dive through the atmosphere. As the five astronauts were ending their 2.7-million-kilometre journey, the Magellan probe they released Monday was more than one million kilometres from Earth on a 15-month, 13-billion-kilometre voyage to Venus to map its surface with super-sharp radar. The astronauts stayed up past bedtime Sunday to stow equipment after replacing a computer that quit during the mission's last full day in space, the only major glitch reported on the journey.

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PLO: Thatcher to meet Arafat

JEDDAH (AP) — A senior Palestinian official says preparations are under way for meeting between British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher and Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat, a Saudi newspaper reported Monday. Bassam Abu Sharif, one of Arafat's closest advisers, was quoted as saying: "British officials have told me there is no obstacle to such a summit... and we are now preparing quietly to arrange for that meeting which, as British officials told me, will take place at the right time." In the interview in the daily Al Sharq Al Awsat, Abu Sharif also shrugged off British government denial of an imminent meeting between Arafat and British Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe. The PLO spokesman was quoted as saying he found the denial "somewhat strange," adding: "My understanding from my meetings with a number of British officials indicate that a Palestinian-British summit is not excluded at all." Abu Sharif said in the interview conducted in Paris that he was heading for London to pursue talks he has held before with British officials, led by Minister of State William Waldegrave.

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Observers' arrival contingent on firm ceasefire

Beirut truce explodes

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Remorseless artillery bombardments battered Beirut and about 80 outlying towns and villages Monday in some of the most savage shelling of Lebanon's civil war.

A least 2,000 shells, rockets or mortar bombs smashed into western and eastern sectors of the divided capital, police said.

Police said 16 people were killed and 53 wounded in the non-stop bombardment that turned Beirut into a jungle of splintered concrete, burning apartment buildings, smoldering cars and dangling power cables.

The new casualties brought the overall toll of two months of fighting to 316 dead and 1,184 injured. Material losses have been estimated at about \$300 million.

As the battles resumed, sources in Tunis said the Arab League will delay sending ceasefire observers to Lebanon until the ceasefire called 10 days ago.

League Secretary-General Chadli Klibi wanted Lebanon's warring parties to immediately resume honouring a ceasefire that began April 28 and collapsed Sunday in fierce artillery duels, the sources said.

Lakhdar Ibrahim, Klibi's special Lebanon envoy, would probably visit Damascus and Beirut Monday or Tuesday in a bid to restore the ceasefire, they added.

He would be accompanied by Kuwaiti Brigadier Ali Al Moumen, head of the observer force.

On Monday morning the two men were still in Tunis after meetings at the league Sunday.

Lebanese security sources said scores of shells slammed into residential areas of Lebanon's Christian enclave, held by the troops of army commander Major-General Michel Aoun.

But militias have said they will not end the shelling until the observers arrive.

"When Lebanon's warring parties talk to Arab League envoys they promise to abide by the ceasefire," an Arab diplomat said. "Then when they get outside the door they do what they want."

He said that pressure from Arab heads of state, expected to meet at a summit in Morocco by early June, might be needed to resolve Lebanon's impasse.

Police said 21,500 shells and rockets were unleashed on Beirut's two sectors from dusk Saturday to midnight Sunday.

A police spokesman, who cannot be named under standing rules said 22 people were killed and 120 wounded in the 30-hour barrage.

Ibrahim was returning to Damascus and Beirut Tuesday to patch up the ceasefire, Beirut newspaper reported.

"The Arabs now face the difficult task of shoring up the ceasefire. Otherwise the observers will have nothing to monitor," the police spokesman said.

Gaping holes were blown in scores of apartment buildings on both sides of Beirut's dividing green line. Hundreds of cars smoldered on streets blanketed with debris, glass shards and dangling power cables.

"They've destroyed everything I own," lamented Mahmoud Younis, a 30-year-old as he stared at his gutted electrical tools shop in west Beirut's Mosseibeh residential district. "I hope they will roast in hell, all of them."

One shell tore through the building that houses the west Beirut office of the British Reuters news agency, causing extensive material damage but no casualties, the agency's staff reported.

Security sources said three people were killed in east Beirut and seven were wounded in the latest

Israelis attack Arabs after funeral of soldier

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — More than 50 Israelis hurled stones at Arab cars outside the southern town of Ashdod Monday after the funeral of a soldier believed killed by Palestinian kidnappers.

Troops barred the 1.7 million Palestinians of the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip from entering Israel for two days and confined Gaza residents to their homes indefinitely from Monday.

"We are closing the areas to prevent uprising activities," the army spokesman said.

The stone throwing in Ashdod, the third show of Jewish anti-Arab crowd anger in a week, followed the funeral in the town of sergeant Avi Sasportas, 21, who vanished while hitch-hiking home from his base in mid-February.

His body was found in a shallow grave in southern Israel Sunday by troops searching for another missing soldier who may have suffered the same fate.

Israel Radio said dozens of Ashdod residents unfurled an Israeli flag and tried to block a major route between Tel Aviv and the Gaza Strip.

The radio said three Israelis were arrested by police, who witnesses said numbered about 100. They put the number of stone-

throwers at more than 50.

The rear window of a car with Gaza licence plates was smashed by a large stone and another Gaza car was abandoned by the roadside, the witness said.

Ashdod police fired tear-gas Sunday night to disperse hundreds of protesters, mainly supporters of militant anti-Arab cleric Meir Kahane, shouting "Death to the Arabs" and demanding "revenge" for the death of Sasportas.

Israel Radio said preliminary findings showed Sasportas was shot in the head several hours after he was taken Feb. 16 to the Hodiyeh intersection some 35 kilometres southwest of Jerusalem.

Police have said they suspect Palestinians were involved in the cases of Sasportas and Han Saadon, the second missing soldier.

On Monday, police also announced a 19-year-old West Bank Palestinian was arrested and being investigated as a suspect in the death of a 13-year-old Israeli boy in the coastal city of Jaffa. The suspect's name was withheld.

Sasportas' death and the disappearance of Saadon triggered a wave of Jewish outbursts, with newspaper editorials accusing

EC condemns Iranian call, welcomes Palestinian rejection

MADRID (Agencies) — The European Community (EC) condemned Monday as unacceptable Iran's call on Palestinians to kill Westerners.

The 12-nation group welcomed the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) rejection of the Iranian call.

The threats violated the basic principles of international relations, the community said in a statement released in Madrid because Spain holds the rotating EC presidency.

"The 12 energetically condemn the absolutely unacceptable declarations by the president (speaker) of the Iranian parliament. Ali Akbar Rafsanjani, exhorting to killings and attacks against citizens and property of France, the United Kingdom and the United States," it said.

"Once again, one of Iran's highest authorities has violated the basic principles and rules governing relations between sovereign states, and threatened peaceful coexistence between nations.

The 12... note with satisfaction the total rejection of such declarations by the highest leaders of the Palestine Liberation Orga-

nisation, which confirms the will of the Palestinian leadership to achieve through peaceful means recognition of the Palestinian people's legitimate rights," the statement said.

Iran's relations with community countries have been strained over its calls to kill author Salman Rushdie and a suggestion that Palestinians use extremism against the West in retaliation for Arab deaths in the Israeli-occupied territories.

Britain Monday denounced the call to Palestinians, issued Friday by Rafsanjani, and said it was discussing a response with other members of the community.

"We hold the Iranians directly responsible for any actions taken against British or other nationals as a result of his remarks," a spokesman said.

Rafsanjani said in a sermon Friday that Palestinians challenging Israel for the right to an independent homeland should hijack planes, attack Western interests and kill five Americans, Britons or Frenchmen for every Palestinian killed.

Security has been stepped up at British airports.

The Dutch government told

Iran that its call was "totally reprehensible," and urged joint EC action on the issue.

Mohammad Taghi Moaied.

Iran's ambassador to the Netherlands, was issued a "strong protest" by senior Dutch official after he had been summoned to the Foreign Ministry, according to a spokesman.

PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat Sunday told reporters in Tunis: "I reject this call in its totality."

The Iranian statement also brought immediate condemnation from Washington and Paris.

However, Israel played down the PLO reaction to Rafsanjani's call.

A spokesman for Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir told Reuters: "It's not the first time the PLO has made this kind of statement when it is convenient for them and people should not give it any credibility."

An 18-year-old Palestinian clutching an automatic rifle at Beirut's Mar Elias refugee camp told reporters on Sunday:

"We are not terrorists and our armed struggle is against Israel, not civilians and innocent people."

The Dutch government told

WHO seeks deal over PLO bid

GENEVA (Agencies) — Diplomats opened the World Health Organisation's (WHO) annual assembly Monday searching for a compromise on bid to enrolling the Palestine Liberation Organisation's (PLO) State of Palestine in the organisation.

Zaire Health Minister Dr. Ngandu-Kabaya Dibanda, addressing the brief opening ceremony as president of last year's assembly, made no direct reference to the political controversy threatening to dominate the meeting.

But he said that the 166-nation agency "must avoid questions alien to health" in its efforts to raise the level of health throughout the world.

The United States, which funds one quarter of WHO's regular budget, has threatened to cease its financial support if the PLO's status of non-voting observer is changed into full membership.

WHO Director-General Hiroshi Nakajima made a surprise visit to PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat in Tunis but failed to persuade him to shelve the PLO's application to be a full member.

"We're going ahead (with the application). The instructions are to go ahead," PLO delegation chief Dr. Fathi Arafat told Reuters.

Fathi Arafat, brother of the PLO leader, sat at the general assembly of the 166-nation organisation behind the plaque "Palestine". The name was changed from PLO last December by a decision of the U.N. General Assembly.

Nakajima, saying that a cutoff of U.S. funds would destroy the agency, has pushed a draft resolution that would postpone consideration of the PLO application at least until next year.

Shortly before the session began, he discussed the issue with U.S. Health Secretary Louis Sullivan, chief of Washington's delegation.

"Nakajima is trying very hard to save his organisation," one Western diplomat said.

Western delegations, arguing that the PLO does not meet the requirements of statehood, generally support a postponement but it was not clear if such a move would be backed by a majority.

An African diplomat pointed out that the developing nations usually vote with the PLO.

The PLO question was due to come up first in a closed-door meeting of the agenda committee late Monday.

"We have not received any

Shanshal named Iraqi defence minister

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — Iraqi President Saddam Hussein has appointed Major-General Abdul Jabbar Shanshal as defence minister to replace Gen. Adnan Khairallah, who was killed in a helicopter crash Friday.

Shanshal, had been minister of state for military affairs.

Shanshal had been chief of staff in the Iraqi army in the early years of the Iran-Iraq war that ended in a ceasefire last August.

Khairallah, the president's cousin and brother-in-law had also been deputy commander in chief and deputy prime minister.

A presidential decree announced on Baghdad Television named no replacement for Khairallah's other post as deputy commander-in-chief of the

armed forces.

Gen. Shanshal, in his late 60s, was chief of the army staff for more than 10 years until 1983 when he was named state minister for military affairs.

Khairallah was returning

alone to Baghdad after a two-day tour with Hussein and his family of the autonomous Kurdish region of northern Iraq.

Hussein said in a presidential decree that Khairallah's helicopter crashed after its pilots lost control during the sand storm.

Jordan expressed deep sympathy with Iraq over the death of Khairallah.

His Majesty King Hussein delegated His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan and Prime Minister Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker to take part in the

funeral in Baghdad on Saturday to convey condolences to the Iraqi president and the bereaved family.

King Hussein called the Iraqi president by telephone Sunday evening to express his deepest sorrow over the death of Khairallah.

"Iraq's loss with the death of the late army commander is a loss for the whole Arab Nation," the King said in his telephone call.

Earlier, the King sent a cable to President Hussein paying tribute to Khairallah, "who was a hero of the Arab Nation and fell after accomplishing his duty in the eight-year war against the Iranian invasion and after leading his forces to victory."

"On behalf of the whole Jordanian family, I send you deepest sympathy on the loss of

the great man who fought heroically alongside his brothers in arms in defence of the sacred soil of the Arab Nation," the King said.

ACC summit postponed

A conference of the heads of state of Jordan, Egypt, Iraq and North Yemen scheduled for next Wednesday was postponed indefinitely, the state-run Middle East News Agency (MENA) said Sunday.

Quoting Information Minister Safwat Al Sherif, MENA said the four states, forming the Arab Cooperation council (ACC), decided to postpone the summit to express the sympathy of member states for the death of Iraq's defence minister.

The summit was originally scheduled to take place in Alexandria.

Kidnappers convey demands to Bonn

AAQBEIH, Lebanon (AP) — Two West German relief workers said Monday they were freed from brief captivity last week to transmit the demands of the kidnappers holding a third West German hostage in South Lebanon.

It was first time the pair, Heinrich Strubing and Peter Schnitzler, met with the press since they were abducted by five gunmen on the outskirts of South Lebanon's provincial capital of Sidon Thursday night and freed the next morning.

They said the kidnappers were holding Markus Quint, another Asme-Humanitas relief worker.

"We were freed in the early morning of May 5 to transmit the orders of the kidnappers to the responsible authorities in West Germany," said an English statement they handed out.

They refused to spell out the demands at the news conference in the private organisation's seaside compound here.

"We can't and we don't want to give any further information about this case now, because we don't want to endanger the life of Markus Quint," the statement said.

Its identification of the captive as Quint dispelled the confusion that followed his initial identification by Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) officials as Michael Markus.

West German press reports said Quint, in his early 20s, was the cook for the six-member Asme-Humanitas team that extends medical care mainly to Palestinian refugees in the camps of Ain Al-Hilweh and Mieh Mieh.

In Bonn, West German officials said Monday the demands had been relayed from the two Asme-Humanitas officials.

BEIJING (AP) — Communist Party General Secretary Zhao Ziyang Monday praised students who have returned to class after three weeks of pro-democracy protests, saying it showed "increasing reason."

Zhao also promised that China would proceed with political reform, which has lagged well behind decentralisation of the economy.

Although the ruling party has made some effort to separate its work from that of the government and replace arbitrary decision-making with laws, the government remains mainly the executor of decisions made by a few top party leaders.

Economic and political restructuring should "support each other," the official Xinhua news agency quoted Zhao as telling a visiting Turkish delegation.

Since a massive march Thursday night on

Mauritania demands Senegal pay damages

ABIDJAN, Ivory Coast (Agencies) — Mauritanian President Maayouia Ould Sid Ahmed Taya says Senegal is to blame for a recent outbreak of violence that left at least 260 citizens of the two countries dead.

In a radio broadcast Sunday night the Mauritanian leader also demanded reparations.

Taya said the official Senegalese news media inflamed the situation by giving a distorted account of events after an April 9 incident in which two Senegalese farmers were killed. Some reports said the farmers were killed by Mauritanian border guards; others said rival farmers killed them.

The border incident set off a wave of violence that ultimately forced an international airlift to bring thousands of Mauritanian nationals home from Senegal and Senegalese home from Mauritania.

Taya, in a broadcast in Arabic monitored here, said Senegalese authorities should pay compensation to Mauritanians forced to flee Senegal and return money confiscated from them.

"The Mauritanian government and people do not bear any responsibility in those tragic events. On the contrary, Mauritania continued to seek the prevention of clashes and the slaying of innocents," Taya said.

"The Senegalese authorities must immediately return the significant sums of money confiscated from our compatriots when they left Dakar and the border areas. The Senegalese authorities must also fairly compensate our compatriots who were displaced for all of their plundered property," he added.

Many of the shops in the Senegalese capital of Dakar were operated by Mauritanians who were forced to flee during the violence.



Senegalese close ranks

The ethnic flare-up with Mauritania has narrowed the gap between its government and opposition but may have pushed Mauritania further into the Arab fold, analysts say.

For the first time in a year Senegalese politicians presented a united front during the crisis, stressing the close inter-dependency of the two economies.

The opposition has at last resumed some kind of dialogue with President Abdou Diouf who has skilfully used the anti-Mauritanian feelings to encourage a rapprochement with the opposition," a Western diplomat said.

Senegal, one of Africa's few multi-party democracies, has been torn apart by bitter domestic differences since a general election in February 1985.

The opposition, split into 16 political parties, said the polls had been rigged in favour of

Diouf's Socialist Party. Abdoulaye Wade, leader of the centrist PDS party, has led the opposition campaign against Diouf. But the troubles with Mauritania have increased support for Diouf.

Last week up to 11 opposition parties issued a joint statement expressing concern over the risk of war and calling on the eight million Senegalese to stop the violence. They also urged both governments to settle the dispute peacefully.

As looting and killings continued, opposition leaders including Amath Dansokho, the leader of the pro-Soviet PTT party and a close ally of Wade, held separate talks with Diouf.

Political sources said Wade, who failed twice to unseat Diouf as president, has refrained from his usual fiery anti-government statements. Instead he called for African mediation and humanitarian assistance from France, Senegal's former colonial ruler.

Senegal's government and opposition have blamed Mauritania for the deaths of the two Senegalese farmers in the dispute that led to the escalation of ethnic tension. But both countries have been careful to maintain diplomatic relations, stressing the close inter-dependency of the two economies.

Regional analysts and Senegalese fear that Mauritania, where light-skinned Moors make up two-thirds of the two million population, might move away from Africa and towards its Arab neighbours.

Mauritania, a country straddling the Arab black Africa, is ruled by army officers who joined the five-state Arab Maghreb Union set up in February. The move prompted concern among the Negro-African minority who already resent the political and economic domination of Moors of Arab and Berber descent.

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ADDIS ABABA (Agencies) — Sudanese rebels Monday rejected the government's offer to set up a joint committee to enforce a ceasefire proposed last week.

Responding to the proposal, Nefiah Deng, spokesman for the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA), said the rebels would meet with the government only to implement a broader peace pact they reached last November with one of the parties in Sudan's governing coalition.

The SPLA announced a unilateral, one-month ceasefire a week ago, and Saturday Prime Minister Sadeq Al Mahdi

offered to end the country's state of emergency and establish a joint committee to enforce the truce.

"As long as the provisions of the (November) peace initiatives are not implemented, it is premature to talk about a joint technical military committee," Nefiah said.

The November agreement reached between the SPLA and leaders of the Democratic Unionist Party, the second largest in the government, calls for a freeze on Khartoum's plans to implement Islamic law, an end to the state of emergency, a constitutional

convention and the abrogation of military pacts with Libya and Egypt.

The SPLA, which is backed by Ethiopia, has been fighting since 1983 against what it sees as the domination of Sudan's south by the north.

In a public speech late Saturday, Mahdi also announced he would lift the state of emergency.

He said details for ending the state of emergency, imposed since a military coup ousted President Jaafar Numeiri in April 1985, would be discussed at a proposed May 15 meeting.

Deng Alor, spokesman for the SPLA, objected to Mahdi's

plan Sunday said. "The prime minister cannot decide to send a delegation of military officers and discuss just a ceasefire."

In a telephone conversation from Addis Ababa, Alor told the Associated Press: "The prime minister cannot skip any of the provisions in the agreement. He has to abolish Islamic law, cancel military pacts with foreign powers, Egypt and Libya, and lift the state of emergency."

"What he did is ignore the first two (conditions)."

He also denied that Sudan had contacted the SPLA to arrange for a May 15 meeting, and said he was expecting a Sudanese ministerial peace committee to discuss the November agreement.

In his speech, Mahdi said his government had honoured an agreement to suspend Islamic laws, the final status of which, he said would be negotiated with the SPLA.

Referring to defence pacts with Libya and Egypt, Mahdi described them as "unbiased agreements" that could be settled in direct negotiations between the two parties.

In March, Mahdi said a joint defence treaty with Egypt had effectively ended with the overthrow of Numeiri in 1985.

He said the Soviets continue to pose a significant military threat to Western interests, and he portrayed Gorbachev's unilateral force reductions in Eastern Europe as still leaving the Warsaw Pact with a 2-to-1 edge in tanks and artillery.

Baker also said it was too early to tell whether Gorbachev's restructuring of the economy, known as perestroika, will succeed.

Baker's schedule will give him high visibility. Besides meetings with Shevardnadze Wednesday and Thursday mornings and a two-hour session with Gorbachev Thursday afternoon, several public events are planned to enhance his knowledge of Soviet affairs and get his views across to the Soviet people.

These include an interview on Soviet Television, meetings with Soviet parliamentarians and dissidents, and an inspection of the

U.S. embassy in Moscow that will revive allegations the Soviets planted eavesdropping devices.

Baker was to fly to Helsinki Monday and relaxes there and meets with Finnish officials until his departure for Moscow Wednesday morning. On his way he will stop in Brussels to brief Western allies at NATO headquarters.

A Soviet Foreign ministry spokesman has expressed hope that Baker's visit would speed up superpower negotiations.

But a senior Soviet commentator suggested that the Bush administration was more lukewarm than that of Ronald Reagan in its attitude towards the Soviet Union.

"In general, one gets the impression that the train of U.S.-Soviet relations will still be travelling in the same direction but that the American co-driver is proposing to reduce speed somewhat," he wrote. "At least at

first."

March in Vienna, has never been to the Soviet Union in private or public life.

The trip to Moscow also will be

the first for Robert M. Gates, the deputy director of the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), who will accompany Baker along with officials of the Pentagon, the State Department and the National Security Council.

One of the issues projected for discussion in Moscow is a joint approach to terrorism. Baker hopes to persuade the Soviets to end their alleged financial support to countries that sponsor terrorism. A group of U.S. experts is planning to go to Moscow later in the spring for further talks.

Baker set the tone for his trip in a speech Thursday in Washington in which he contrasted the "new thinking" that has marked the Gorbachev era with "the reality of both Soviet capabilities and actions."

bilateral agreements signed in recent years.

"At present this process is developing less actively than before," he said.

"The new U.S. administration paused to analyse foreign political priorities which is quite normal. Now it is necessary to step up the negotiating process in all spheres. I hope that Baker's visit will lead to it."

Commentator Alexander Bovin, writing in the government daily *Izvestia* Saturday, said the impression emerging from the Bush administration was one of less enthusiasm for warm relations with Moscow.

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Registration for haj ends May 20

Jordan proposes ACC cooperation in Islamic affairs

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs has prepared a memorandum which entails details about forms of cooperation in Awqaf and Islamic matters among the four-member Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) countries, Jordan, Iraq, Egypt and North Yemen.

A report in the local press said that the memorandum calls for unifying legislations and regulations concerning the work of the ministries of Islamic affairs in the four states, and other matters related to orphans and preaching in Mosques.

The memorandum suggested closer cooperation in the publication of Islamic materials, organising Islamic book exhibitions and other activities to highlight Islamic culture.

The memorandum proposed a plan to help the ministries of Islamic affairs in the four countries.

tries to confront subversive elements and actions considered harmful to the Islamic faith, and urged cooperation in the construction of mosques and preserving Islamic places like the tombs of the companions of the Prophet Mohammed.

Furthermore, the ministry's memorandum suggested ways for cooperation among ACC countries in matters related to pilgrimage to holy places in Mecca and Medina.

Earlier, the Ministry of Awqaf announced that May 20 will be the last day for registering would-be pilgrims for this year's pilgrimage to Mecca. Registration, which was being undertaken by the ministry, started on April 9 when the Minister of Awqaf announced that 18 transport companies will be involved in transporting pilgrims via land to and from the

holy places in Saudi Arabia.

Pilgrimage to Mecca normally precedes the 'Eid Al Adha feast (feast of sacrifice) which is celebrated in Mecca at the end of the pilgrimage rites, and falls 70 days after 'Eid Al Fitr which fell last Saturday.

The Ministry of Awqaf has made preparations also for receiving pilgrims from the occupied Arab territories who are to be housed at a camp in the Jordan Valley and Syrian and Turkish pilgrims travelling by land who cross the Syrian border and are housed at the Ramtha pilgrim town.

This year, all would-be pilgrims will have to produce certificates proving that they have been vaccinated against meningitis in accordance with instructions issued by the Saudi Arabian authorities.

Bulgarian troupe entertains RJ's Gateway guests

AMMAN (J.T.) — A 21-Bulgarian folk troupe is in town presenting performances before the Jordanian public in the course of a 10-day stay in the Kingdom at the invitation of Royal Jordanian (RJ), the national Jordanian airline.

The first performance was presented Saturday at Alia Gateway Hotel near the Queen Alia International Airport where the troupe is staying.

The performance, on the first

day of Eid Al Fitr, was watched by Tourism Minister Yanal Hikmat and Bulgarian embassy staff who enjoyed Bulgarian national folk dancing, modern dancing in addition to acrobatic and gymnastic shows.

The hotel director Nazib Dabbas said that the performances were in implementation of a Bulgarian-Jordanian cultural agreement which also provides for an exchange of visits by cultural

and artistic folk troupes, publications, and the organisation of national folkloric activities in either country.

Dabbas said that the festival was part of RJ's endeavours to encourage tourism and interaction between Jordanian and other cultures. A hotel spokesman told the Jordan Times that the Bulgarian troupe will wind up their stay in the country on May 16 when they will fly back home.

The report said that soon after 'Eid Al Fitr holiday teams of workers will be employed in the work which covers an area of 1,820 dunums, extending from Ashrafa and Jafa to Lweibdeh and Ras Al Ain districts.

According to the municipality spokesman, the central areas of the city experienced landslides in the past decade and its old and dilapidated buildings could collapse in tremors. At least 6,200 homes are found in the area which lacks proper public services for the 38,000 inhabitants, the spokesman said.

Many stores selling a variety of goods exist alongside archaeological sites which need to be restored and fenced off, said the spokesman.

In addition, he said, the area is congested with cars and pedestrians, and according to municipality estimates, up to 4,000 vehicles

Development of downtown soon

AMMAN (J.T.) — Work on a JD 4 million project for the development of the central parts of Amman is expected to start this week, according to a municipality spokesman quoted by Sawt Al Shab daily.

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In addition, he said, the area is congested with cars and pedestrians, and according to municipality estimates, up to 4,000 vehicles

pass through this area at any of the rush hours. The development of this area, he added, is designed to deal with a long list of problems which include: lack of space for worshippers at Al Husseini Mosque, the lack of municipal services and the difficulty to reach the heart of the city.

There is need to find pedestrian paths, to improve the condition of schools and public utilities, to facilitate the flow of traffic, to improve the condition of roads and alleys, to find car and bus parks and improve the general condition of traffic within the area of central Amman. According to the spokesman, the coming development programme will solve the present problems for the coming two decades.

It is estimated that by adopting summer time, Jordan will save one hour of energy a day consumed for lighting by reducing the need for artificial light during the evening in the domestic sector. Translated into figures, it means 20 per cent savings in energy and approximately JD 2 million in hard currency.

Studies indicate that power consumption per capita in the Kingdom is one of the highest in the developing world. The industrial sector, however, is not expected to be effected by the switch since most factories and plants follow a set number of working hours regardless of the change of time.

Royal Jordanian, the country's national carrier, will not be changing to the daylight savings time as far as flight schedules are concerned since they are linked with Greenwich Mean Time, which is now three hours behind Jordan Time.

The practice of adopting daylight-savings time dates back to World War I when many countries in Western Europe used it as a way to conserve precious resources during wartime, according to Encyclopaedia Britannica. Daylight-savings time was first

introduced in 1916 by the United States.

Jordan Press Association President Hashem Khreisat, on his part, said that this step necessitates extra effort on the part of the papers employees. This step was adopted following repeated requests by the readers and profound consideration, Khreisat added. It is a sacrifice the readers deserve, he noted.

NATIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

INJURED: Egypt's Ambassador to Jordan Ihab Mugbil Sunday sustained head bruises and rib fractures when the car he was driving overturned on the Cairo-Alexandria highway. His daughter also sustained injuries. The ambassador was taken to Ras Al Tin Hospital in Alexandria to receive medical treatment (Petra).

CELEBRATIONS: On the 7th anniversary of the Great Arab Revolt, the Armed Forces Morale Guidance Department will hold the first seminar on 13-15 June. According to Al Dustour daily a number of participants will make presentations covering various aspects of the Revolt (J.T.).

FINAL EXAMS: The final examinations for the second semester at Yarmouk University will begin on May 17 and run through May 24, according to Sawt Al Shab daily (J.T.).

SUMMER SCHOOL: The summer school at Mu'ta University will begin on June 24 and run through August 24, according to Al Dustour daily (J.T.).

ANTI-SMOKING: The committee entrusted with making preparations for the international anti-smoking day has approved the events for that day which will be on May 31. The events will include a number of lectures as well as television and radio programmes, according to Al Dustour (J.T.).

TRAVEL FARES: Minister of Transport and Telecommunications Hikmat Khammash has defined travel fares by buses from Irbid to Halawah at 350 fils and from Irbid to Samad at 170 fils (Petra).

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

★ A plastic art exhibition by Mohammad Bolis and Muaiara Tunisiyeh at the Housing Gallery.

★ The May art exhibition at Al Wasiti Art Gallery, Plaza Hotel.

FILM

★ A documentary on Bill Cosby, shown as part of the American Centre's programme "America's Actors" — 7:00 p.m.

When Father Time quickens his step

By Ghadeer Taha
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — If it feels like you got one hour less of your usual and essential beauty sleep, your institutions are quiet correct: daylight saving time, alias summertime, is here once again in Jordan. So you are advised to readjust your sleeping hours because summertime will stay with us for six long months.

Jordan's switch to summertime for the fifth consecutive year after a seven-year break came into force as part of a government drive to conserve energy and thus reduce the Kingdom's fuel import bill.

The energy saving possibility comes at an essential time for the cash-strapped country which has a severe shortage of hard foreign currency. The prices of fuel have already been hiked dramatically — approximately 20 per cent — in order to address the budget deficit and to meet requirements set by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) in an economic adaptation programme the Kingdom agreed with the fund in April in an effort to reschedule its \$6 billion foreign debt and rationalise consumption patterns in the Kingdom.

It is estimated that by adopting summer time, Jordan will save one hour of energy a day consumed for lighting by reducing the need for artificial light during the evening in the domestic sector. Translated into figures, it means 20 per cent savings in energy and approximately JD 2 million in hard currency.

Studies indicate that power consumption per capita in the Kingdom is one of the highest in the developing world. The industrial sector, however, is not expected to be effected by the switch since most factories and plants follow a set number of working hours regardless of the change of time.

According to Palestinian reports there have been more than a dozen incidents in which troops broke watches of Palestinians with clubs. Soldiers or policemen would ask a passerby for the time and when given the "Palestinian time" would either smash the Palestinian's watch, or beat him or her, according to news reports.

There might be some initial resentment at having to readjust to the new time schedules in Jordan but the irritation, caused by novelty, will soon wear off and the next switch, to winter time, is a long way off. Remember, it's all for the national good.



adopted in the U.S. during World War II. All clocks were kept ahead of Standard Time for the interval of Feb. 9, 1942-Sept. 30, 1945 with no changes made in summer. Beginning 1967, by act of Congress, the U.S. has observed daylight-savings time but leaves the final decision to individual states.

"Political time"

Syria and Israel switched to summer time in April. But in the occupied territories, the transition was not exactly very smooth. Palestinians living in Arab Jerusalem, Ramallah, Bethlehem and Beit Jalla complained two weeks ago that their watches had been smashed by Israeli policemen and soldiers because they were set according to "Palestinian time," which was adopted by the Palestinians this year earlier than the Israelis as yet another sign of Palestinian independence.

A leaflet issued by the leadership of the Palestinian uprising calling on the Palestinians to move their watches forward by one hour on April 15 to mark summertime in the State of Palestine. Palestinians in various parts of the West Bank, East Jerusalem and also in the Gaza Strip were following the new summertime.

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His Majesty King Hussein, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, His Royal Highness Prince Abdullah Ibn Al Hussein, His Royal Highness Prince Faisal Ibn Al Hussein and Prime Minister Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker Saturday perform the early morning 'Eid Al Fitr prayers at King Abdullah Mosque in Amman.

Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker Saturday perform the early morning 'Eid Al Fitr prayers at King Abdullah Mosque in Amman.

'Eid Al Fitr holiday ends today

King attends 'Eid prayers, receives good wishes

AMMAN (J.T.) — Work at government departments and public institutions return to normal Tuesday following a three-day holiday on 'Eid Al Fitr which marked the end of the holy month of Ramadan.

The feast was celebrated at various mosques around the country, with the main celebration held at King Abdullah Ibn Al Hussein mosque in Abdali.

His Majesty King Hussein attended the prayers along with huge crowds of worshippers, and heard a sermon by Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Secretary General Ahmad Hilayel in which he echoed the King's call on the Jordanian public to double their efforts for reconstruction and development.

The preacher sent greetings to the oppressed people of Palestine

under Israeli occupation rule, and expressed Jordan's appreciation to Arab countries which displayed solidarity with Jordan in the face of its economic hardships.

Attending the prayers with the King were His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, Prince Abdullah Ibn Al Hussein, Prince Faisal Ibn Al Hussein, Prime Minister Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker, Speaker of the Upper House of Parliament Ahmad Al Lawzi and other senior officials.

Following the prayers at the mosque, the King met with worshippers who expressed their good wishes on the feast.

Accompanied by Prince Hassan and several members of the Royal family, King Hussein later visited the tombs of the late Kings Abdullah and King Talal where he laid wreaths and recited verses from the Holy Koran.

The Royal Court announced that King Hussein received cables of good wishes on the occasion from Kings and heads of state of various Arab and friendly nations.

Government and private schools will remain closed Tuesday and re-open for students on Wednesday.



His Majesty King Hussein Saturday accepts 'Eid good wishes from army officers at Al Hussein Sports City in Amman.

Helen Grant: Art as spiritual experience

By Nelly Lama
Special to the Jordan Times

The most controversial form is the swastika. It had its origins in India about 7000 years ago and was used at that time to symbolise success, victory and self-development. In fact it continued to have these connotations of success and victory as it spread all over the world. In India, it was generally associated with spiritual things; it is used decoratively all over India on signboards.

"You can find an English style flower garden with bushes cut into swastikas. It gives people coming from Europe a great shock because it is associated with the Nazis. In fact the swastika is more ancient than that. The 'Sw' comes from the Sanskrit word 'Good.' Asti (from Astika) means 'to be'. In other words, the swastika was a symbol that conveys good wishes 'May you be good.' May you have success."

Each form has its own significance: A stylised double axe, used in the Minoan culture, is the symbol of the power of the good and of light.

The triangle, which can be seen in many of her works, indicates mental movement towards self-development or towards a more materialistic frame of mind, depending on whether the end of the triangle is pointing upwards or downwards. "When a person stares for some time at a triangle pointing upwards, it has a very activating effect on his mind, it engages his intellect and puts the person in the mood to plan, to do; whereas a triangle pointing downwards will engage a more meditative or contemplative state of mind."

Repeated curved linear shapes with dots in between them symbolise the seven energy centres of the body which medical science recognises as clusters of glands and which the yogis say are very important for self-development. The curved shape with a dot in between symbolises the division between the world of forms and the formless world. It is very abstract as an idea, but it is present in all religions. The created world and the pre-created world, the realm of the godhead and the world of normal mundane things. So, traditionally, this shape is the bridge between the two of them. A ladder-like form symbolises the same thing, a kind of ascent from one world to another. In general, a dot represents pure consciousness. "A dot within a triangle, therefore, represents the consciousness bound by energy, in a state just before the whole manifested universe comes into being," she synthesises.

In many of the works you will

see the images and textures to which the medium lends itself. She works on zinc and uses curvilinear shapes unlike the traditional rectangular zinc plates.

"Textures do refer to nature in the form of a thread, a rug or a net, but the idea is to try to communicate something that exists on the mental, psychic and spiritual level."

Asked whether superimposing one shape over the other had any particular significance, Helen answered: "The position of the different forms and colours is important." One represents the five layers of the mind, the conscious, subconscious and three layers of what modern scientists call the unconscious. The colours were chosen specifically according to the kind of energy effect which is at work in the mind or which an experienced person will have when he is operating primarily from that level of the mind.

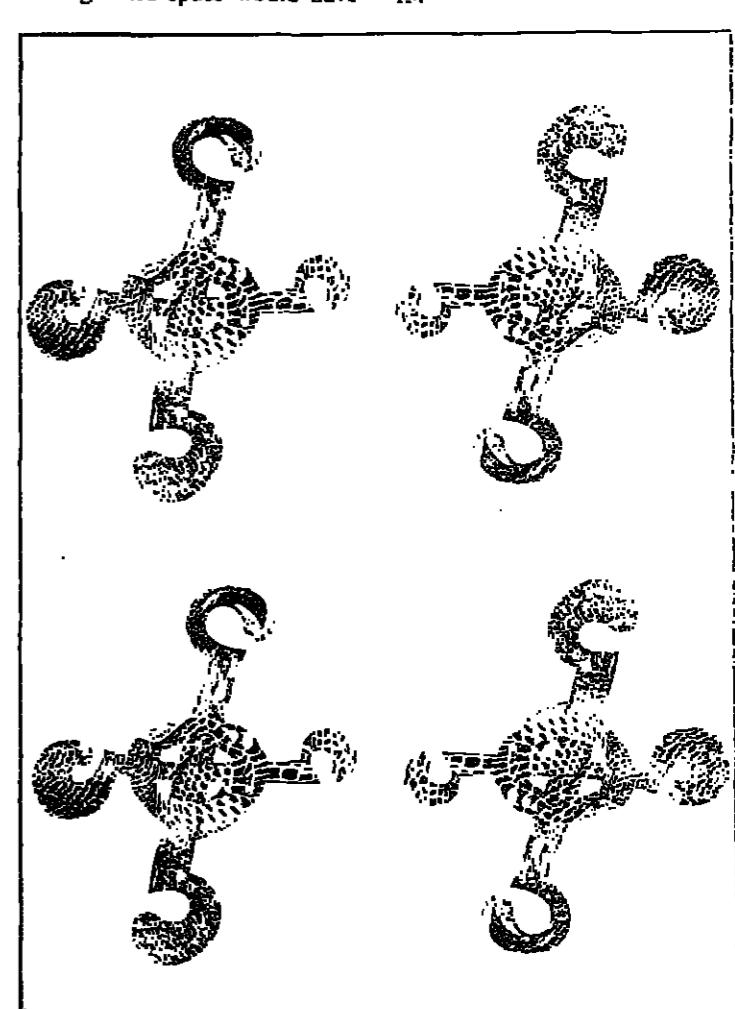
Therefore the highest level is a golden one because people who reach an elevated state of mind actually see things in golden hues, sometimes even their skin turns a golden colour.

Lines are done mostly with oil and chalk pastels. Helen uses a plastic resist technique.

Wooden mural sculptures are made by cutting out a silhouette, which is itself a symbolic shape, and covering it with mixed media, using the resist technique with tempera paint or oil based paint.

One biomorphic shape with a thrust upwards and a turbulent curvilinear texture in plastic resist turns very subtle as it is subdued by the almost total coverage with light blue pigment. A wheel within a hat shape refers to the Indian concept of fate, or Karma, destiny, the predetermined. Three projections represent a graphic exaggeration of a human profile with a bump in the forehead. It represents what a human being in a highly developed state of mind might look like, not physically, but aurally i.e., the colour vibration and the field of energy that surrounds him or her.

Some of the prints she makes



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Stop the bloody cycle

ONE hates to think that the most recent flare-up of fighting and indiscriminate shelling between the major Lebanese factions has taken the Lebanese crisis once again to square one. Considerable optimism was generated when the ceasefire, engineered by the six-member Arab League's Ministerial Committee, appeared to be holding in preparation for the deployment of an inter-Arab peace keeping force to monitor the observance of the ceasefire. Then all of a sudden all hell broke loose once again in Lebanon and of all times during the 'Eid Al Fitr holidays. The question that is now uppermost on the minds of all concerned is whether all Arab efforts, painstakingly conducted under the most difficult and pressing conditions, have lost momentum even before the arrival of the Arab force to set the stage for additional steps programmed to be taken on the path of a comprehensive settlement of the conflict. If the answer is in the affirmative, then it would mean that the regional efforts have become bankrupt and time has become ripe for international efforts to pitch in their efforts to salvage the situation in Lebanon. Lebanese, of all factions, one still hopes, would prefer to have their internal conflict solved by Arab efforts rather than have it internationalised. If some Lebanese parties think that Arab efforts are anathema to the Lebanese public interest they better think twice before they accept to internationalise it for in such latter approach lies a multitude of latent dangers that could be moved problematical to Lebanon's unity and internal cohesion. Accordingly how the protagonists in Lebanon deal with the fragile ceasefire, declared at the intervention of the Arab League, would determine which way the Lebanese situation is heading. If one of the two sides genuinely believes that the other is determined to torpedo the Arab League's efforts by repeatedly searching for ways to undermine the ceasefire, then one may ask the innocent party to abstain from reacting to such schemes in kind. The objective must be to interrupt the cycle of violence in Lebanon by the party which is the strongest on the side of peace and reconciliation. Such aspiration can still be attained if such a party refuses to fall in the trap set for it by the other side by simply keeping its weapons silent for as long as humanly possible. The cycle of action and reaction must be broken; it behoves the forces of peace in Lebanon to do just that even if it entails some additional transitional sacrifices.

JORDAN PRESS EDITORIALS

TWO Jordanian Arabic dailies Al Ra'i and Al Dustour commented on Israel's fabricated reports claiming that Jordan has sought to conclude a defence pact with Israel. Al Ra'i newspaper said such false reports are designed to cast doubt about Jordan's credibility and cause a split within the Arab ranks in general and the Jordanian-Palestinian front in particular. This unfounded and totally false claim, the paper said, complements that which Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir had tried to peddle in the United States when he said that the creation of a Palestinian state in Palestine would threaten Jordan's existence. The paper said that Shamir and the Zionist leaders in Tel Aviv are striving hard to stop the intifada with any possible means and are trying to draw a wedge in Arab ranks and weaken the Arab Nation, the paper said. It said that Jordan supports the PLO and Egypt in demanding a comprehensive peace and believes that elections in the occupied territories would not be enough to achieve that goal. Jordan, it added, supports the creation of a Palestinian state and has paved the way for the Palestinians to achieve that goal by severing ties with the West Bank and supporting the PLO in its endeavour to regain Palestinian rights.

Al Dustour daily said that Israel was trying to deal with its accumulating problems at home by shifting the Israeli public opinion to external issues and is levelling false claims at Jordan. The paper said Israel from time to time resorts to such tactics to divert world public attention from the ongoing revolt inside the occupied Arab territories and sometimes to cause confusion and splits within the ranks of the Arab Nation. The Israeli claim that Jordan was seeking a defence treaty with the Zionist state is an obviously naive attempt to cause confusion at this particular moment as the Palestinian people are involved in a struggle for liberation, the paper noted. It said that Israel has tried several times before to cast doubt on Jordan's national stand in a bid to take off the world's eyes on what is going on inside the occupied Arab lands where the Israeli troops are committing atrocities against the innocent people. Everyone realises that Israel is against the creation of a Palestinian state and it is Israel and not Jordan, as the false report in the Haaretz newspaper claimed, that is trying to prevent the creation of such a state, the paper pointed out.

Sawt Al Shabab daily discussed Eid Al Fitr feast which marked the end of the holy month of Ramadan. The paper said that the Eid comes at a time when the Jordanian family is renewing its determination to pursue the march towards development and when King Hussein is more determined than ever before on helping his people achieve that goal. The paper said that it is true that certain economic conditions brought about the present circumstances but the Jordanian people guided by its wise leadership will eventually overcome the present difficulties and forge ahead with more resolve towards the attainment of their national goals. There is no alternative to self reliance, increased productivity and diligent work to confront the challenges and overcome the present difficulties, said the paper. Eid Al Fitr, it said, should give the Jordanian people a chance to consider all options and to work out plans for their future action.

Weekly Political Pulse

Give parliament a real chance

By Waleed Sadi

ONE of the principal mandates of the government of Sharif Zaid Ion Shaker is to prepare for the next national elections. That means that one may gently open the file of such elections for additional and closer look.

To begin with, the amended elections law views all Jordanians as equal in duties and rights. There are no 18-carat Jordanians and 12-carat ones in the eyes of Jordan's legislation including those amplifying the voting and election process in the country. This is also in keeping with customary international law which calls for a proportionate voting system to reflect the cardinal United Nations principle of one-man-one-vote. The underlying political and legal foundations of such a rule of law stem from the equally well-recognised principle of customary international law as well as from domestic Jordanian law which regards citizens as equal in political rights, especially when it comes to voting. Accordingly, if citizens are equal before the law, it follows that the vote that they cast must also carry equal political weight.

But this legal edifice is not and must not be devoid of political considerations that may put some reasonable restraints on it. It so happens that regional representation also occupies a cardinal place in relevant laws both domestic and international. If the country, the whole country and its people domiciled in different regions of the land with varied forms of concerns and interests are to be equitably represented in a national assembly, one must make a genuine effort to strike a reasonable balance between the principle of one-man-one-vote and the objective of having a fair regional representation. How to strike that equilibrium is of

course the one-million-dinar question that requires astute political ingenuity and farsightedness. It must be borne in mind in this context that few nations, if ever, in the world, including the most sophisticated ones among them, have succeeded to attain the state-of-the-art equitable voting system on a completely ideal as well as balanced regional representation basis.

Many countries have opted to resort to an upper house mechanism to provide for adequate regional representation which could not have been attained in the lower house without molesting with the one-man-one-vote principle. Yet each country has its own peculiar circumstances and conditions which prevent one from adopting a rule of thumb on such highly controversial issues.

What is perhaps more important than all these considerations is the fact that the next national elections in Jordan could serve as some sort of a watershed to gauge accurately how seriously Jordanians take their citizenship rights and duties. It is paramount for Jordanians, all Jordanians, to demonstrate during the projected election period that their demands on their country must be matched by their willingness to be genuine parts of the Jordanian election phenomenon where the welfare, progress and harmony of the country is uppermost on their minds and hearts. In return, the country owes them the duty to give the newly elected national assembly the full opportunity to exercise its functions and duties as illustrated in the Constitution to the best of their bona fide abilities. If the recent unfortunate riots in some Jordanian cities and towns demonstrate anything it is the fact that the country

needs an operational parliament to help it tread its path forward in the face of the multitude of conflicts and issues that are confronting it. The success or failure of the next Jordanian experiment in parliamentary life could very well determine the future of institutionalised dialogue process in Jordan. In other words how our future parliamentarians handle their delicate and highly important functions can make or break the democratic process in Jordan for many years.

The crux of the problem for our future elected representatives is to engage the executive branch of government in a meaningful dialogue motivated by a clear desire to promote public well in a manner which is not provocative or confrontational for confrontation's sake only. The lawful exercise of their parliamentary duties and functions would also call for the manifestation of moral courage to speak out when it is necessary to do so in order to portray the other side of the argument. In the final analysis it is more how one expresses his thoughts and views that determines the nature of his true intentions. To paraphrase Crown Prince Hassan's assessment of the desired nature of Jordanian parliament must never be a slogan to serve ideologies and ideologies that do not have the interests of the country at heart. All Jordanians owe it to themselves to give parliamentary life in Jordan a real chance to succeed. They will have an ample opportunity to do so when they cast their votes in the approaching national elections.

Europe and North Africa: a relationship needing attention

By Lillian Craig Harris

IN recent months British immigration authorities have turned back numbers of young, unemployed Algerians with little visible means of support who have arrived in the U.K. claiming to be tourists. In response, Algerian authorities have refused entry to several British businessmen. The dispute, which many hope is a minor irritant in an otherwise positive relationship, serves usefully to focus attention on the future of North Africa's relations with Western Europe.

The passing of the colonial era diminished European attention to North Africa, and the age of international weapons has reduced North Africa's strategic importance to its northern neighbours. But North Africa is Western Europe's nearest window on the developing world. The southern Italian islands are only 250 miles from Libya; Ceuta and Melilla involve Spain in a territorial dispute with Morocco; Gibraltar brings Britain to the brink of North Africa.

Advocates of "Mediterranean Basin" politics claim Europe has no southern frontier. Whether or not this is so, the North Africans are making clear their hopes to draw closer to Western Europe. Last year Morocco asked to join the European Community and Algeria reemphasised its request for membership of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe. Tunisia, optimistically under new leadership, looks to Europe for development assistance. Even Libya has in recent years complained that, apart from Albania, it is the only Mediterranean state without economic cooperation agreement with the EEC.

On the other hand, the Arab Maghreb Union, agreed in mid-February by these four North African states and Mauritania, is an encouraging indigenous initiative inspired at least in part by North African awareness of the need to prepare for the opportunities and dangers of a single European market after 1992.

Actual political and economic unity will remain elusive for a long time to come. But the North Africans' perception of common challenge has created at least a temporary climate of greater flexibility.

On March 3, for example, King Hassan announced that Morocco will ratify in 1972 border agreement with Algeria "to ensure that the foundations for the birth of an Arab Maghreb are complete."

North Africa is changing. Frequent North African demands for "respect" and "equality" convey the chagrin many feel over the need to wait at Europe's backdoor for assistance. Closer attention to the opportunities and dilemmas which North Africa presents to Europe ought not to be postponed.

North Africa's importance to Europe

First the good news. Contrary to its popular image, North Africa is a region of remarkable political and institutional stability. Hassan II has reigned since 1961; Qaddafi came to power in 1969. In Algeria and Tunisia, post-independence leadership changes have occurred non-violently and with allegiance to existing political institutions.

Though North Africans remain extraordinarily sensitive to domination from the north and Europeans usually seek to avoid direct involvement in North African affairs, security cooperation

grows more important to Europe as a market for goods and as a consumer of technology and funding. By the end of this century, there will be over 80 million North Africans, most of them eager for European goods. More controversially, several European nations including France, Italy, Germany, Holland and Britain, have found North Africa a lucrative arms market.

Remittances from workers in Europe are a major source of foreign exchange for all North African states, and Morocco and Tunisia gain significant income from European tourists. (Tunisia is visited by at least two million Europeans each year.) But North Africa's greatest income sources are Algerian and Libyan petroleum and Algerian natural gas, much of it marketed in Europe.

A lucrative market

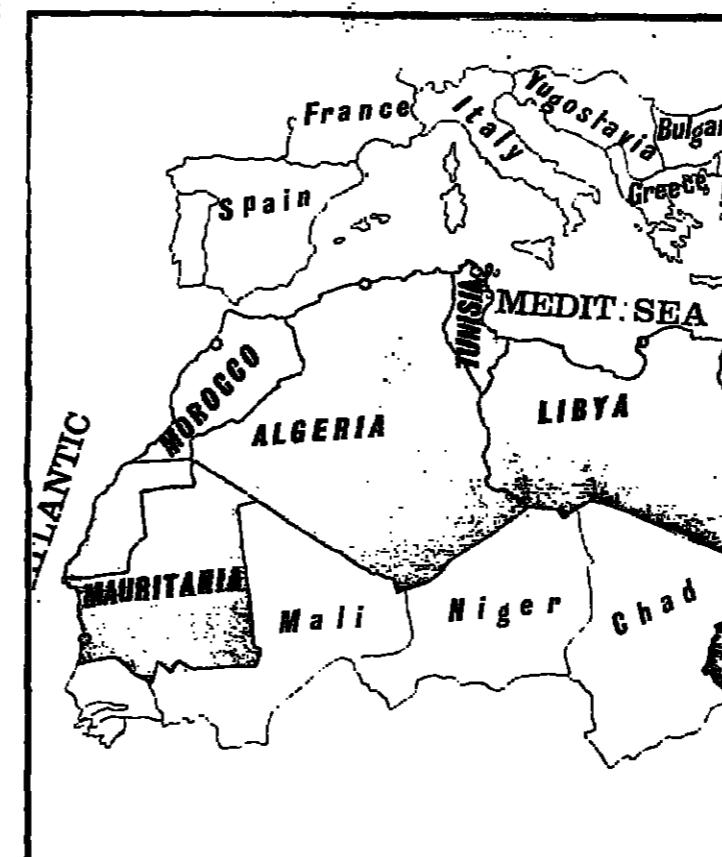
For historical reasons, France remains more deeply involved in North Africa both commercially and politically than any other European nation. However, opportunities for Britain are expanding as English increases in popularity as the language of science and technology, as one British Council official describes it. Libya, ironically, remains Britain's major North African trading partner despite a rupture in diplomatic relations in 1984 following the killing of a British policewoman by a member of the Libyan diplomatic mission and, more recently, British anger over verification in late 1987 of major Libyan arms supplies to the IRA.

Commercial exchange between the two regions is both lively and growing. As North Africa seeks to modernise and develop, it

Food is a major trading commodity in both directions and Morocco, Tunisia and Algeria have trading agreements with the EEC covering agriculture and fisheries.

Obstacles to better relations

But there is also bad news, much of it financial. In 1987 the North African states carried a total external debt of up to \$64 billion, a significant percentage owed to European sources or to international lending institutions such as the International Monetary Fund. Broad differences between both national resources and economic policy make generalisations dangerous, but serious questions remain about the percentage of North African debts likely to be repaid.



What lies ahead?

Assistance but not control and protection, if necessary, but not interference, are high on North Africa's list of needs from Europe. But although economic dependence on Europe is already an irritant to North Africans, such dependence is growing. All North African states actively seek broader commercial contacts with and more economic aid from Europe. Despite its hydrocarbon resources, even Algeria now receives multinational aid, and since the beginning of this decade, Libya, too, has several times borrowed money from European sources.

European fears of political instability in North Africa, including the frequent observation that in Morocco and Libya continued political stability seems to depend primarily on the survival of one man, may not be exaggerated. But disagreements over national boundaries, competition for regional leadership, tensions between rich and poor, unemployment, all contribute to the possibility of political upheaval.

Most seriously, the Maghreb's high population growth rate (2.5 per cent per year for Morocco and Tunisia and over 3 per cent for Algeria) underlies and complicates all other social, economic and political questions. Conventional wisdom has held that Algeria's national resources and strong government made it the least likely candidate for economic and political chaos. But anti-government riots in late 1988 reemphasised the difficult choices facing all Maghreb governments.

As the century closes, the two most critical long-term problems facing North Africa are rapidly increasing population and food dependency, both dangerous foes of regional stability and independence. Inevitably, an affluent, well fed Europe with a static population must become more deeply involved. But can Europe help North Africa without increasing North African dependence and resentment?

To compound the problem, none of the four North African states produces even half the food its people consume. Unless the undoubted potential of their own agricultural sectors can be developed (Algeria is making commendable efforts to do so), increased dependence on Europe is likely.

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Lefkada's north coast has superb beaches



The late Onassis with her daughter

Lefkada waking from the dream

By John Solman

CHRISTINA Onassis' funeral put Lefkada in the headlines last month: a rare occurrence. For most people, this quiet island in the Ionian is famous principally — or even only — because off its coast lies the islet of Skorpios, which Christina's father Aristotle turned into a sort of Greek Alcatraz, though one devoted to pleasure rather than punishment.

On Lefkada itself, feelings towards the Onassis dynasty are rather mixed. On the one hand, they brought work to Nidri, the village on the main island facing out to Skorpios; there was always need of cleaning ladies, gardeners and suchlike. And the boatmen did quite well, too, taking out trippers to gape from a distance at the houses, the private heliports, the jetties. Landing was not — and indeed is not — allowed.

On the other hand, the clan's wish for peace and privacy was such that it used its not inconsiderable political pull to prevent any development of Lefkada for tourism. Bank loans for hotel-building mysteriously failed to come through, and applications for development permits got bogged down in a morass of bureaucracy.

As a result, until the late 1970s,

when the Onassis lost interest in their island, Lefkada was a paradise for those in search of the element of the unspoiled — if not for its islanders. At that time, Lefkada was the only place in the Ionian Islands that could undeservedly have been termed "poor."

That is changing rapidly. In 1979, when the present writer first visited Lefkada, Poros Bay was an idyllic spot at the end of a tortuous dirt track. There was a camp site, a little taverna and not much else.

The family which struggled to make a living settling vegetables from their garden to visitors spent the summer in a shack with cardboard walls that turned into mush at the slightest sign of rain. Now they have a smart new restaurant, a ghetto-blaster and a spanking new pickup to take their produce to market. Can one regret development when it puts an end to poverty?

Lefkada today is still a paradise, but one of a rather different kind. The tourist facilities which used to be lacking are now there, but discreetly so. This is not Rhodes, or Corfu: there are no enormous hotels, and the "tourism" bit of the island's main town is a 200-yard stretch of the main street. Nidri is the hub of the tourist trade, but once away from

it, the face of traditional Greece is immediately apparent. Lefkada is, for instance, one of the few places left in Greece where the women wear traditional dress as a matter of course: a complicated arrangement of skirts and pinnafores tied up in a bun at the back, all done in shades of brown and in a black which steadfastly refuses to look dowdy.

Geographically, and also, I think, socially, Lefkada falls into two parts: the coastal zone, right round the island, and the mountainous inland areas. Once away from the shore, the land rises steeply to a spine of mountains some 3,500 feet high. In the valleys, and around the upland plains, there are villages — or perhaps one should say there were villages, for this part of Lefkada is dying. In the past, the islanders lived up the mountain and came down to the coast to work their fields and pasture their flocks in winter. Now the flocks have gone, the fields are being developed and the population has moved away from the mountain villages. Only the old people are left. The whole of this part of the island is criss-crossed with roads — most of them unsurfaced but perfectly passable — leading to fascinating places such as Enklouvi, the highest village on Lefkada, which produces lentils famed

throughout Greece.

These upland villages should not be missed, even though most people will want to stick largely to the coast.

Lefkada town

The first place the visitor comes to is Lefkada town, reached from the mainland across a causeway and a bridge — Lefkada is only just an island, separated from the rocky coast of Aetolia by a narrow and shallow channel. The town stands on a spit of land sticking out into the channel and has water on two of its three sides — for geographical reasons its shape is roughly triangular. The water to the north takes the form of a lagoon, used for fishing and surrounded by a narrow strip of land with beaches on the other side.

The town itself is rather a peculiar place. Earthquakes in the early '50s knocked it flat, and it was rebuilt in a style in which lath-and-plaster is combined with corrugated iron for the upper floors. At first glance it looks rather like a shanty town, but its charm grows with familiarity and the buildings must be extremely practical from the point of view of protection against further earthquakes.

The main street strikes through the heart of the town, with a

fascinating array of shops in which it is possible to buy — literally. I've checked it! — everything from a computer to a bell to hang round the neck of your sheep. Halfway along is the main square, a delightful place to sit over an ouzo in the evening listening to the excellent brass band practising. To the right and left of the main street is a warren of little alleys flanked by tiny houses built in the local style, many of them with microscopic courtyards filled with flowers. Exploring this are can be great fun, and it's too small to get lost as one can in Corfu town.

The north coast

The road now turns inland and climbs. From here until Cape Lefkatas, the westernmost tip of the island, it runs along the top of the cliffs, through occasional villages. Access to the sea is only possible at a few points, and never easy — though well worth the effort when you get there.

The island's best beach is along here: called Porto Katsiki, it is down a track near the Cape, some 50 kilometres from Lefkada town. There is a horseshoe of sand beneath a towering cliff: apart from superb swimming, Porto Katsiki is also blessed with stupendous scenery and a visit there is a "must."

Cape Lefkatas, with views south to Kephallonia and Ithaca, is a lonely and impressive spot.

White cliffs plunge down into the sea beneath the lighthouse which is the only trace of the human presence today, though in ancient times there was a temple to Apollo. The Cape was the scene of a rite in which people were flung — or jumped — into the sea, and there is a tradition that Sappho, the great poetess of antiquity, met her end here out of unrequited love.

The south coast

The beauty of the south coast of Lefkada is quite different to the wild grandeur of the north.

large on an unparalleled natural harbour, is a great favourite with the yacht flotillas and has excellent restaurants.

The west coast of Lefkada focuses on Vasiliki, 38 kilometres from the town, a little harbour which in recent years has become very popular as a resort.

Its main boast is that its large bay is a superb place for wind-surfing — rated by those who know as among the best in Europe. On summer days the whole surface of the bay is alive with multicoloured craft swooping and tacking; an impressive sight.

From Vasiliki the road continues north and joins the north coast road, making it possible to drive right round the island in more than three hours.

Why anyone should wish to do that, however, this writer at least cannot understand. Lefkada is full of places crying out for more exploration, paths and tracks which might lead to the most exciting spots (I still haven't managed to climb the main mountain peak!) and villages where one could contemplate with equanimity spending the rest of one's life.

Without really planning to, I find myself drifting back to Lefkada every year or two, and enjoying it more each time. I get the impression that others who go there may well end up feeling the same way.

The dazzling Gauguin exhibition in Paris

By Muriel Silan

"primitivism."

But the painter's art really got off the ground in 1886 in Brittany. Contrary to preconceived ideas which make Gauguin a "painter of exoticism," the exhibition, which is very rich on the Brittany period, shows that the Tahiti paintings were just a development of his research carried out in Brittany, his first "end of the earth" where he set off on the conquest of his "yet unknown corner of myself," and his "wild side" despite himself."

In the "Breton Shepherdess" the areas of colour are more clearly defined but the choppy strokes of Impressionism are still visible. It took the journey to Martinique, the following year, to make the break. In "Tropical Vegetation" or "Seaside," the colour is more intense and the outlines are sharper.

And then there is the "Vision after the sermon or Jacob's struggle with the angel," the artist's first real challenge and his first painting with a religious theme. The area of the picture is upset and perspective is lost. A diagonal tree-trunk separates the Breton women's white head-dresses from the sacred scene on a vermilion background.

"I well know that I will be less and less understood," Gauguin wrote about that painting which frightened the priest of Pont-Aven church to whom he



"Arearea" by Gauguin from the Tahitian period

creates the dazzling light and colour of his first stay in Tahiti, from April 1891 to summer 1893. "There is a whole shock between your civilisation and my barbarity, the civilisation you are suffering

series of nudes, portraits of sumptuous Tahitian girls, domestic scenes, magic evocations of Tahitian mythology, a host of moments from external life cut in the area of the canvas, offered up to our gaze.

His painful return to Paris left this invention of Polynesian mystery intact, as shown in "Annah the Javanese woman" or in the strange ceramic-sculpture "Oviri," the female killer which Gauguin wanted to have decorate his tomb.

This exhibition pays magnificent homage to the art of Paul Gauguin, too often obscured by the legend of the damned artist. He was one of the precursors of modern art. Picasso, Matisse and many others were to be indebted to him.

Three weeks after his opening,

the famous wood carvings of the "Maison du Jour" he was now "the unheard of artist who, from the depths of Oceania, sent this disconcerting, inimitable works, the definitive works of a great man who had, so to speak, disappeared from the world," as his faithful friend Daniel de Monfreid was to write to him.

This exhibition pays magnificent homage to the art of Paul Gauguin, too often obscured by the legend of the damned artist. He was one of the precursors of modern art. Picasso, Matisse and many others were to be indebted to him.

From masterpieces to masterpiece, from "Te arri vahine" to

"The exhibition pays magnificent homage to the art of Paul Gauguin, too often obscured by the legend of the damned artist. He was one of the precursors of modern art. Picasso, Matisse and many others were to be indebted to him."

wanted to give it and who refused it, and created a scandal at the "Salon des XX." "The artist wanted to presumptuously make fun of the visitor." But Gauguin had, nevertheless, created the first picture in a new style, "Synthetism," which illustrates his global conception of an anti-naturalist and symbolist art.

From then on, all his paintings showed his new freedom. From "Still life, the Goanec fete" to the "Self-portrait of the yellow Christ" and including the famous "Still life with the little dogs," inspired by Japanese, he followed that path which was his alone.

The episode of the three months spent in Arles with Van Gogh, which was to end so dramatically, is evoked in three superb paintings presented: "Les Alyscamps," "At the cafe" and "Old Women in Arles."

The rest of the exhibition re-

lates from the barbarity which is, for me, a rejuvenation," Gauguin wrote to A. Struenberg. All the elements of synthesis are united here with the exaltation of brown bodies on the flat background of ocean seascapes, with a

background of iron and wood carvings.

From masterpieces to masterpiece, from "Te arri vahine" to

"The exhibition pays magnificent homage to the art of Paul Gauguin, too often obscured by the legend of the damned artist. He was one of the precursors of modern art. Picasso, Matisse and many others were to be indebted to him."

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Dollar's global role wanes

BASLE, Switzerland (R) — The dollar's global role has shrunk steadily in the past five years and it now accounts for only just over half of lending by banks in industrialised countries, according to a study published Tuesday.

By contrast, Japan's yen and West Germany's mark have grown strongly in importance and at the end of last year each accounted for around 10 per cent of total outstanding loans, the Basle-based Bank for International Settlements (BIS) said.

Also "the high interest yield on dollars apparently exerted a strong attraction on investors from outside-area countries, whereas the Swiss franc, the Deutschemark and the yen had much less to offer in this respect," the BIS added.

The report from the central bankers' central bank was based on information from banks in the BIS reporting area, comprising 18 industrialised countries and seven offshore banking centres.

Between 1983 and 1988 the dollar's share of cross-border lending by these banks contracted to 53 from 72 per cent.

The BIS gave five reasons for the growing importance of non-dollar currencies:

— Financial deregulation in a number of countries had greatly increased the international use of certain currencies.

— The growing international presence of certain non-U.S. banks, partly due to the dollar's depreciation.

— Lower interest rates on most non-dollar currencies had boosted borrowing demand in them rather than the dollar.

— Rapid growth of countries around the Pacific rim, which favoured the yen.

— Debt rescheduling and reduction programmes in developing nations had often involved shifting from dollars to other currencies.

The strongest growth was in the yen over the five-year period under review. Its share of total claims on outside-area countries more than tripled to the equivalent of \$58.5 billion from \$14.4 billion, the BIS said.

If allowance was made for the dollar's depreciation against the yen over that time span, the increase was still 121 per cent on the basis of constant end-1988 exchange rates, it added.

This rapid expansion was helped by Japan's lifting of restrictions on external lending in yen and by the setting-up of the Japan offshore market.

Deutschemark claims more than doubled in current dollar terms to \$55.3 billion, but rose by only about 31 per cent on the basis of constant exchange rates.

Other currencies such as the pound sterling, the French franc, and the Swiss franc also increased market share.

up until the U.S. central bank, the Federal Reserve, opened in New York to lead a concerted round of intervention across the Atlantic.

Market belief is that major industrial nations secretly set 1.90 marks as the top acceptable level for the Deutschemark at a Paris meeting in February 1987 in what became known as the Louvre

Accord. But with a new U.S. administration in place, dealers feel the view from Washington may have changed or be under review.

"We're puzzled because it runs counter to Fed intervention," said a trader. Confusion was compounded by the fact that Federal Reserve Board Governor Martha Seger had earlier said the dollar's

strength was harming U.S. export potential.

Share prices opened slightly weaker in quiet trade in London, partly because of confusion about the dollar's future, dealers said.

Gold traded quietly in London with the market recovering from 32-month lows and was fixed in the morning at \$377.15 an ounce from Friday's close of \$375.25.



A sample of the strengthening Japanese yen

U.S. officials urge swift action on trade imbalances

WASHINGTON (R) — Senior treasury officials, sensing growing frustration in Congress about the U.S. trade gap, have urged swift action to tackle global economic imbalances and warned of financial instability if no progress is made.

But, at a hearing of the Senate Banking Committee, the officials declined to back suggestions that the dollar should fall further to give U.S. exporters an edge in world markets.

"The exchange rates we've had in recent months ... and the stability in exchange markets, has been welcome to us," said Treasury Undersecretary-Designate David Mulford.

The dollar has been climbing steadily in recent days on the back of high U.S. interest rates. It climbed further Friday as dealers read Mulford's remarks as implicitly endorsing the higher levels.

"The dollar is quite competitive at this stage," Mulford said. But he also stressed that an April 2 statement by the Group of Seven industrial democracies opposing a rise in the dollar remained valid.

"That would be our position today," Mulford said. He said progress in reducing the U.S. trade deficit, and the

partners are sceptical. They want to see the proof, in terms of further reductions in the deficit," Brady said.

"Our efforts to get other countries to make the hard domestic choices that are necessary will succeed only if the United States demonstrates leadership and does its part by reducing the federal budget deficit," he added.

Mulford said that unless the U.S. trade deficit comes down, the nation's \$500 billion debt burden will continue to rise, exacting a heavy economic price.

"If that (debt) burden becomes too heavy and long-lived, it also become a major political problem" because it impinges on the United States's ability to lead, Mulford added.

It was clear from remarks by several senators that political feelings are already running high because of the trade deficit, which was \$120 billion in 1988.

Senator John Kerry spoke of a mood of "deepening anger and impatience" both in Congress and across the country.

Senator Larry Pressler said there was a "growing clamour at the grass-roots" about international trade.

Warsaw urges sacrifices to rescue economy

WARSAW (R) — Prime Minister Mieczyslaw Rakowski has urged Poles to make sacrifices and support government efforts to rescue the country's strangled economy.

"It is a critical moment. Our economy has no hidden reserves. Our hard currency resources are worse than modest. The state budget deficit is growing. Subsidies are on the increase," Rakowski told a Communist Party conference.

"We cannot agree to protests at times launched by our own comrades. This only makes the situation worse and increases inflation. The bitter truth is there is no getting away from sacrifices and self-denial," he said in the televised speech.

Delegates at the first day of the conference attacked the government's economic policies, saying they had failed to fill empty shop shelves or curb soaring inflation — widely expected to reach 100 per cent this year.

Several delegates called for clearer, more effective economic policies, but Rakowski, defending government reforms, said industrial output had risen by 37 per cent since 1982.

He said protests and strikes under the banner of simplistic populist slogans could block chances to solve the country's problems, and he urged Poles to support the reforms.

"It is not true that reform mainly means higher prices."

Rakowski said,

"If we get a 'yes' (to proceed with reform) there is a real chance of maintaining the living standards of those who work well. But without such an answer, no government will manage to get out of the very grave economic situation," he noted.

Poland is crippled by a \$39 billion foreign debt. Inflation was more than 70 per cent by the end of 1988 and the government expects a record budget deficit this year of more than a trillion zloties (\$1.47 billion).

A finance ministry official told Reuters last week Poland had suspended principal payments to its commercial bank creditors and wanted to revise debt-scheduling agreements.

AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

Thursday, May 4, 1989		Central Bank official rates	
Buy	Sell	Swiss franc	319.8 323.2
U.S. dollar	538.0 542.0	French franc	84.4 85.2
Pound Sterling	904.9 913.8	Japanese yen (for 100)	401.8 406.1
Deutschmark	284.7 297.5	Dutch guilder	252.5 254.9

Swiss franc 319.8 323.2
French franc 84.4 85.2
Japanese yen (for 100) 401.8 406.1
Dutch guilder 252.5 254.9
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Italian lira (for 100) 39.0 39.3
Belgian franc (for 10) 136.1 137.4

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Deutschmark 284.7 297.5 Dutch guilder 252.5 254.9
Swedish crown 83.9 84.6
Italian lira (for 100) 39.0 39.3
Belgian franc (for 10) 136.1 137.4

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'100 years of racist rugby'

Activists seek response to S. African overtures

LONDON (R) — Anti-apartheid leader Sam Ramsamy threatened protest action Monday against countries who send players to South Africa's rugby union centenary celebrations in August.

Ramsamy, leader of the London-based organisation SANROC, which led disruption of the 1986 Commonwealth Games in Edinburgh, said: "These celebrations are about 100 years of racist rugby."

He said SANROC would take action against countries which had given the go-ahead to players to take part in the celebrations unless those countries reconsidered.

Scotland and Wales both said last week they would not stand in the way of players who wanted to take part in the six matches in August.

Ramsamy said: "We shall be urging the rugby authorities to change their mind and, asking them to show us the same courtesy they have given South Africa by passing on our message to their players."

"We are hopeful they will re-

consider. Rugby has an obligation not to jeopardise international competition for other sports."

"If they refuse, protest action will focus on all countries sending players."

"New Zealand has gone out of its way to cut links with South Africa and in fact has been quite ruthless. But we don't know what action the African countries might take, so action over the (1990) Commonwealth Games cannot be ruled out."

The international rugby board gave South Africa permission in April to invite players through their national unions to make up a composite international XV as part of the centenary celebrations.

Like Wales and Scotland, Australia has said it would pass on invitations but has not said whether it would direct them how to respond.

New Zealand, which stages the Commonwealth Games in Auckland in January and February, has indicated it would not pass on invitations.

Maradona disappears

ROME (AP) — Napoli management was visible peered with team leader Diego Armando Maradona after the Argentine midfielder failed to show up for Sunday's away match at Bologna.

"I'm not obliged to comment on this," team president Corrado Ferlaino responded to reporters at halftime. "I've nothing to say. Nothing."

Without Maradona, second place Napoli had to struggle to a 1-1 draw against a game Bologna

team. A win at Bologna would have allowed the team to shave a point off league-leading Internazionale of Milan's six point lead. Inter tied 1-1 away from home against Juventus of Turin to climb to 46 points.

This season, Maradona has sat out six matches with a series of persistent injuries. In the 21 matches which Maradona has played, the team has racked up 35 points for an average of nearly 1.7 points per match.

GOREN BRIDGE

By CHARLES GOREN
AND OMAR SHARIF

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SPOTTING THE OBVIOUS

East-West vulnerable. South aglimmering, he leaped straight to what he expected to make.

West led the top of his spade sequence. Declarer could count 11 fast tricks, and the obvious place to look for the 12th would seem to be the club finesse. However, there is an additional chance: A 3-3 heart split will produce a third trick in that suit.

"How can declarer combine his chances? If he takes the club finesse and it loses, he cannot give up a heart. If he plays three rounds of hearts, he stands to lose two tricks if the suit breaks 4-2, according to the percentages."

The solution is simple enough. At trick two declarer should lead a low heart and duck it in the other hand, surrendering a trick when the opponents can do him no harm.

Now declarer can test hearts without running the risk of going down.

He can win any return and cash the ace and king of hearts. If the suit divides evenly, the long heart is set up for the fulfilling trick. If one of the defenders shows out on the third heart, declarer can still fall back on the club finesse for his fulfilling trick. Two chances are much better than one.

Opening lead: Jack of ♦. There are some situations that crop up again and again. A veteran declarer doesn't really think about how to handle them — the play is automatic. Consider this hand.

North-South were using a 21-22 range for their two no trump openings. North's three clubs was a probe for a possible major-suit fit, and when a possible heart fit went

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Khmer Rouge rejects ceasefire, peace proposals

TUAN SAI RIER, Thai-Cambodian border (AP) — The nominal leader of the Khmer Rouge, the largest Cambodian guerrilla group, rejected Monday a ceasefire and other recent proposals for ending the decade-old jungle war.

The hardline stance of Khmer Rouge leader Khieu Samphan dampened the optimism that followed conciliatory talks last week between his guerrilla ally, Prince Norodom Sihanouk, and Hun Sen, premier of the Vietnamese-installed government in Cambodia. He appeared to reject all the concessions Sihanouk made at the talks.

Khieu Samphan and Sihanouk each spoke with reporters after a diplomatic ceremony at a Sihanouk army base about one kilometre inside Cambodia's Siem Reap province, but Sihanouk had no immediate comment on Khieu Samphan's remarks at the base.

The ambassadors of China, North Korea and Senegal presented their credentials to Sihanouk as president of the United Nations-recognised resistance coalition government.

They toasted each other with schnapps served by white-jacketed waiters as guerrillas in battle fatigues kept watch in the surrounding forest with assault rifles.

Sihanouk joined the Khmer Rouge in the coalition because of its military might even though it killed hundreds of thousands of

people, including members of his own family, when it ruled Cambodia from 1975 until the Vietnamese invasion in 1978. The Khmer Rouge fields 30,000 to 40,000 guerrillas, according to Western estimates.

Thailand's Prime Minister Chatichai Choonhaven has proposed in recent talks with Sihanouk and Hun Sen that they agree to a ceasefire before the withdrawal of Vietnamese troops from Cambodia. Vietnam has pledged to remove all its estimated 50,000 to 70,000 troops by Sept. 30.

Both Sihanouk and Hun Sen said they agreed to Chatichai's proposal. But Khieu Samphan said a ceasefire could only be part of an overall solution to the conflict.

"We cannot accept a ceasefire that keeps in place a puppet regime," he said, referring to the pro-Vietnamese government in Phnom Penh.

"Once there is an international commission to supervise the Vietnamese pullout, then there will be a ceasefire, not before," he said.

Sihanouk said in Jakarta that he no longer demanded the complete dismantling of the Hun

Sen government before a general election is held.

But Khieu Samphan insisted Monday on the simultaneous dismantling of the Hun Sen and resistance governments. He said a new provisional government "should be formed outside the framework of the two regimes."

Khieu Samphan has been the Khmer Rouge spokesman in recent years, but longtime leader Pol Pot is still believed to wield actual power.

Hun Sen has ruled out Khmer Rouge participation in any new provisional government. Sihanouk said that in Jakarta, Hun Sen urged him to unite their armies and defeat the Khmer Rouge.

The prince Monday left open the possibility he would abandon the Khmer Rouge and join Hun Sen. He said he would decide by November.

But Sihanouk said that as long as Vietnamese troops remain in Cambodia, he would insist that Hun Sen allow the Khmer Rouge a place in a four-party provisional government. The fourth member would be the non-communist guerrilla group, the Khmer People's National Liberation Front.

Sihanouk said he did not believe his and Hun Sen's forces could wipe out the Khmer Rouge.

He said he was insisting on a quadrupartite government "not as an accomplice of the Khmer Rouge but because I have to be realistic."



An East German army officer riding atop a T-55A tank, one of 31 that were being demobilised in the northwestern part of the country as East Germany began a series of cuts in its forces last week.

Cheney links U.S. troops in Europe to short-range missiles

WASHINGTON (R) — Defence Secretary Dick Cheney, entering a stormy debate that divides the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) allies, says he has been pressing for immediate East-West talks on reducing the number of missiles with a range of up to 500 kilometres.

Washington and Britain fear such talks could lead prematurely to the elimination of nuclear arms in Europe — the so-called "third zero" option. They claim Western Europe would then be easy prey to superior Soviet conventional forces.

"We should not be now involved in the business of trying to embark on negotiations that could result in a third zero," Cheney said.

Congressman Les Aspin, powerful chairman of the House Armed Services Committee, warned a prolonged debate could generate calls in Congress for withdrawing U.S. troops from Europe.

"We clearly are pursuing now in the arms control arena reduction in conventional superiority that the Soviets possess," he said in a U.S. television interview.

On appointments, the Takeshita aide said it was angry when last week Japanese newspapers reported likely members of his future cabinet and top LDP posts.

"He wants to have a free hand," the aide said.

The government official said Takeshita's camp was meanwhile trying to allay any impression that it was commanding the succession decision process.

"They don't want to look like they're putting Ito into the arena," he said. "They don't want to be seen flexing their muscles to bring Ito in but in reality they want to keep the reins as much as possible."

Takeshita said during his trip that ended Sunday he would personally assess Ito this week to succeed him.

Ito, who was briefly caretaker prime minister in 1980, is generally seen as untainted by the Recruit scandal.

Recruit, a property and telecommunications company, gave huge donations of money and listed stock to top politicians in exchange for favours.

Prince Yi Eun had nominally

succeeded to the throne in 1925 on the death of his half-brother King Sunjong, but by then the peninsula was under Japanese colonial rule and the monarchy was history.

There were glimpses of the pageantry of a bygone age as Monday's solemn funeral procession set out, led by 20 girls in dresses of mourning white, carrying between them a huge flag of the Republic of Korea.

They were followed by old men in black traditional Hanbok robes white court shoes — all except one who wore sneakers — archers in multi-coloured uniform, and musicians in yellow with blue sashes and plumed hats, bearing long trumpets, conch shells and drums.

Another contingent of mourners carried a forest of banners, most bearing Chinese inscriptions but some with golden dragons.

As the cortège left the high, double-roofed gate of the Changdeokgung Palace, where the princess had lived her last years, the streets outside fell silent.

Huge traffic jams built up but Seoul's usually pugnacious drivers refrained from sounding their horns.

It was a mark of respect for a woman who, in her later years, devoted much time and effort to charitable work for the mentally and physically disabled.

Born Princess Nashimoto Masako in Tokyo in November 1901, she grew up in an expansionist Japan which after years of manoeuvring finally annexed the Korean Peninsula in 1910.

In 1920 the Japanese government obliged the princess to marry the Korean crown prince, thinking in this way — as she later wrote — to ensure complete, final control over the peninsula.

The couple had a first son who died in infancy, apparently poisoned by Korean court officials opposed to the union with Japan.

A second son, Yi Gu, was born 10 years later. Though technically heir to the non-existent Korean throne, he lives as a commoner in Japan.

Yi Gu presided at his mother's funeral ceremonies Monday.

'Last queen' of Korea is laid to rest

SEOUL (R) — Resolutely republican South Koreans paid final tribute Monday to a Japanese princess who, if things had worked out differently, would have been their queen.

The body of 87-year-old Yi Pang-Ja, who died April 30, was borne through the streets of Seoul on a richly decorated bier surrounded by carved dragons and brightly coloured lanterns.

An honour guard of the national police, in modern green uniforms, walked alongside.

Princess Pang-Ja was buried later Monday near the tomb of her husband, the last crown prince of Korea's Yi Dynasty (1392-1910), north-east of the capital.

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succeeded to the throne in 1925 on the death of his half-brother King Sunjong, but by then the peninsula was under Japanese colonial rule and the monarchy was history.

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Drug cult leader ordered own death

MEXICO CITY (AP) — The ringleader of a drug-smuggling cult that killed 15 people ordered his own slaying when police closed in on him, the cult's alleged "high priestess" said Sunday.

Opposition leader Kim Dae-Jung called over the weekend for the entire cabinet to resign to accept responsibility for the political situation.

The main opposition parties, which generally do not support the radicals, have called for curbs on violent protest, but also have charged that the government is trying to use the unrest as an excuse to crack down on all opponents.

Education Ministry officials said Monday they would close university student newspapers and other publications that publish leftist or pro-North Korean articles.

Constanzo, the alleged "godmother" of the cult, and Aldrete had been sought in an international manhunt and are believed to have masterminded the activities.

Police officials, who declined to be identified by name, said the radicals, have called for curbs on violent protest, but also have charged that the government is trying to use the unrest as an excuse to crack down on all opponents.

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